GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4901
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
FIRE RETARDANT COACHES
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire related rai accidents occurred during each of the last three years and the number of passengers killed in these accidents;

(b) the details of specifications developed by the Railway`s Research Designing and Standards Organisation (RDSO) for manufacturing fire-retardant coaches and their utilisations and implementation;

(c) the status of French offer of technical assistance in manufacturing fire retardant coaches;

(d) whether the Government proposes to initiate immediate action to finalise and implement plans to encourage manufacture of fire-retardant passenger coaches to save people killed in fire related rail accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (e): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4901 BY SHRI K.S. RAO TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 10.05.2007 REGARDING FIRE RETARDANT COACHES.

(a) Other than cases of sabotage, the number of consequential train accidents due to fire during the last three years and the number of passengers killed in these accidents are as under:-

Year	No. of Accidents	Passengers
2004-05	10	
2005-06	15	15
2006-07	04	

(b): With a view to enhance the fire retardancy in railway coaches, Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) have developed specifications for fire retardant furnishing items/materials to be used in Railway coaches, namely, compreg board for coach flooring, seat upholstery, curtains, room ceiling laminated sheets for side wall and partition frame paneling, PVC flooring, and densified thermal bonded polyester blocks for seats & berths.

(c): During 2004-05, Indian Railway and Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer Francais(SNCF) International had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in different fields including obtaining expertise/expert advice in the field of improvements in fire worthiness of passenger coaches. SNCF`s proposal was not for technical assistance in manufacturing fire retardant coaches but was for building up Indian Railway`s capability in undertaking simulated fire related studies. This proposal for acquiring the fire simulation software and training of Indian Railway officials by SNCF International has been sanctioned in the current year Budget.

(d) & (e): Enhancing fire worthiness of coaches by means of development of fire retardant furnishing materials is a continuous exercise. Efforts are being made to bring about continual improvement in this area and more and more sources for manufacture of fire retardant materials for coaches are being developed for ease in availability of such coach furnishing materials for use in manufacture and maintenance of passenger coaches.